

Service Date: September 23, 1986

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

IN THE MATTER of the Application of)	UTILITY DIVISION
the SOUTHER MONTANA TELEPHONE)	DOCKET NO. 86.8.39
COMPANY For a Return Check Charge)	ORDER NO. 5227

On June 30, 1986 Southern Montana Telephone Company filed a request with the Montana Public Service Commission to initiate a returned check charge. The \$8 charge would apply each time a customer makes a payment with a check that is not honored by the bank or financial institution.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. A Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing was issued on August 21, 1986. The notice was served on the Montana Consumer Counsel and was published in the Montana Standard and the Dillon Tribune-Examiner. The notice stated that if no requests for hearing were received by September 15, 1986 a default order could be issued.
2. No requests for hearing or comments on the application have been received by the Commission.
3. The Commission finds that the request of Southern Montana Telephone is reasonable. Most other utilities in Montana currently have tariffs on file for returned check charges and the requested charge of \$8 is less than Mountain Bell's current charge and is deemed reasonable.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Southern Montana Telephone Company furnishes regulated telecommunication services within the state of Montana and is a "public utility" under the regulatory jurisdiction of the Montana Public Service Commission.
2. The Montana Public Service Commission properly exercises jurisdiction over the Applicant's Montana operation pursuant to Title 69, Chapter 3, MCA.

ORDER

1. Southern Montana Telephone Company's request for an \$8 returned check charge is hereby GRANTED.

2. The returned check charge will be effective October 1, 1986.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana, this 22nd day of September, 1986 by a 5-0 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CLYDE JARVIS, Chairman

HOWARD L. ELLIS, Commissioner

TOM MONAHAN, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

JOHN B. DRISCOLL, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Ann Purcell

Acting Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request the Commission to reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See 38.2.4806, ARM.